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## **Senate acting swiftly to fund Michigan National Guard hurricane disaster relief**

**LANSING** – The Michigan Senate has taken prompt action to support the Michigan National Guard’s efforts to assist those affected by Hurricane Katrina by agreeing to authorize money for the operations, announced Sen. Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township.

The Senate plans to authorize \$1 million to deploy members of the Michigan National Guard to parts of Louisiana and Mississippi devastated by the powerful hurricane that struck earlier in the week. Sections of New Orleans remain underwater because of breached levees.

“In this time when our southern neighbors are in need, we are glad to send all the assistance we can,” Birkholz said. “Our soldiers are standing ready to help provide support and relief.”

Current estimates are that around 100 people were killed by the hurricane, and damage costs have been put as high as \$25 billion, according to news reports.

The Guard will deploy as soon as possible using existing funds. The money appropriated by the Legislature will replace that money.

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